

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 216789
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 SSM-05
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NSAE-00 PA-02 /095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----041785 100241Z /20

O 092315Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
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PAGE 02 STATE 216789

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 9

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 1977:
FYI ONLY, THE OFFICER DOING THE BRIEFING TODAY WAS HODDING
CARTER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON MINISTER SHARON'S SUGGESTION
THAT THERE ARE GOING TO BE MORE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON THE
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PAGE 03 STATE 216789

WEST BANK; AND DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION OF THESE SO-
CALLED SECRET SETTLEMENTS WHICH ARE CONSIDERABLE?

A. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THAT NO SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN ESTAB-
LISHED IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BEYOND THOSE PREVIOUSLY
ANNOUNCED.

NOW, BEYOND THAT ASSERTION, WHICH WE MAKE WITH SOME CON-
FIDENCE, I'D JUST SUGGEST THAT YOU ASK THE ISRAELI GOVERN-
MENT WHAT THE SITUATION MAY BE.

Q. AND HOW ABOUT SHARON'S STATEMENT ABOUT FUTURE POSSIBLE
SETTLEMENTS?

A. WELL, THERE ARE TWO THINGS HERE AGAIN. INsofar AS ANY
SEEMING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WHAT HE SAYS AND WHAT THE
GOVERNMENT SAYS OFFICIALLY, AGAIN I WOULD REFER THAT TO
THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. INsofar AS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF
THE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER MATTERS
WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH THE FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND
AFFAIRS THERE, YOU ALL KNOW THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF

ISRAEL IS COMING HERE WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD, AND I'M SURE THAT WE WILL HAVE CONVERSATIONS AT THAT TIME, FORMALLY ON THIS SUBJECT AND OTHERS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A DATE ON HIS ARRIVAL? TODAY IS THE 9TH. DOES THAT HELP YOU AT ALL NOW?

A. I THINK HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN, ACTUALLY TALKING, AROUND THE 19TH. I MEAN, I BELIEVE THAT THE SCHEDULE OF CONVERSATION THAT I REMEMBER IS OCTOBER 19TH. WHEN HE WILL ACTUALLY HIT THE UNITED STATES I'M NOT SURE.

Q. SEPTEMBER 19TH?

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PAGE 04 STATE 216789

A. I MEAN SEPTEMBER 19TH, YES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE DATES FOR ACTUAL TALKING BY ANY OF THE ARAB LEADERS?

A. YES. I HAVE SEEN SOME, AND I JUST WAS GOING OVER THEM AND WAS WONDERING ABOUT THEM AS TO WHETHER WE WILL HAVE THEM RELEASABLE. LET ME SEE IF I CAN'T PUT THEM OUT THIS AFTERNOON. THEY FOLLOW THEREAFTER.

Q. AND GROMYKO GETS SORT OF FIT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THAT, DOES HE? WE WERE THINKING IT WOULD BE THE 22ND-23RD?

A. 22ND TO 23RD STILL STANDS.

Q. STILL WASHINGTON?

A. STILL WASHINGTON.

Q. SO WE'LL BE NEGOTIATING ON SOVIET RELATIONS AND THE MIDDLE EAST MORE OR LESS ALTOGETHER --

A. YES. I SUSPECT, OF COURSE, THAT A PORTION OF THAT CONVERSATION WITH GROMYKO MAY TAKE UP OUR JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE CO-CONVENERS OF GENEVA, IN ANY CASE.

Q. GROMYKO WOULD BE EXPECTED TO SEE THE PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE, ACCORDING TO NORMAL PRECEDENT; BUT WOULD ANY OF THESE MIDDLE EAST FOREIGN MINISTER TYPES BE EXPECTED TO SEE THE PRESIDENT OR ARE THEY JUST GOING TO BE DEALING WITH VANCE?

A. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY HAVE TO BE EXPECTED TO SEE THE
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 216789

PRESIDENT. THE POSSIBILITY I THINK ALWAYS EXISTS.

Q. THE PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY SAID HE --

A. I KNOW, BUT WHICH ONES -- WHO, HOW, WHEN -- I WANT TO LEAVE THOSE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO GIVE. I'M NOT PREPARED TO READ THAT OUT.

Q. WHEN DO YOU EXPECT MR. FAHMI? I THINK HE'S SUPPOSED TO COME, ISN'T HE?

A. WELL, AGAIN, RATHER THAN TRYING TO PUT THIS OUT OF MY HEAD, SINCE I DON'T HAVE THE SCHEDULE IN FRONT OF ME, LET ME JUST GO AHEAD AND POST IT THIS AFTERNOON AS BEST I CAN.

Q. I'M A LITTLE LOST HERE. THE PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY REACTED TO THE SHARON STATEMENT, SAYING THAT "ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY CREATE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS." YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ASSURANCES FROM THE ISRAELIS THAT NO SETTLEMENTS --

A. NO. NOW, LET'S NOT PLAY GAMES WITH WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID. HE WAS STILL REFERRING TO THE GENERAL NOTION OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK AND REPEATING WHAT WE HAVE NOW SAID, I GUESS A DOZEN TIMES, ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS. HE WAS NOT REFERRING TO WHAT, IN ANY CASE, WE'VE BEEN TOLD DOESN'T EXIST, WHICH WAS SOMETHING THAT GENERAL SHARON PUT OUT. HE WAS REITERATING WHAT HE SAID MANY TIMES, WHICH HAD TO DO WITH THE WEST BANK.

Q. THE AP WRITING IN HERE --

A. YES, I'M READING IT.

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PAGE 06 STATE 216789

Q. CARTER WAS ASKED ABOUT THE SETTLEMENTS AS HE SAID GOODBYE. AND HE SAID, "OBVIOUSLY, THIS CREATES ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS."

A. "OBVIOUSLY, THIS CREATES PROBLEMS. THE ESTABLISHMENT BY ISRAEL OF SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ON THE

WEST BANK AND ELSEWHERE IS ILLEGAL."

"OBVIOUSLY, THIS CREATES PROBLEMS" -- WE HAVE SAID THAT.

Q. IS IT THE UNITED STATES FEELING THAT ISRAEL IS DEFYING THE UNITED STATES WHEN IT DOES THESE THINGS?

A. I THINK THAT YOU HAVE ANALYZED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT VERY WELL, AND I'M NOT PREPARED TO INTERPRET HIS STATEMENT. I THINK THAT THERE I WILL HAVE TO STAY WITH THE CONTEXT AND LET THE STATEMENT SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

Q. HODDING, CAN YOU TELL US WHEN YOU RECEIVED THESE ASSURANCES THAT THESE SECRET SETTLEMENTS DO NOT EXIST?

A. I WOULD SAY FOLLOWING THE REPORTS THAT THEY DID, THAT ASSURANCE HAS BEEN RECEIVED THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN ISRAEL.

Q. CAN I AMPLIFY THIS? THERE'S A "FBIS ITEM" -- I GUESS IT'S ISRAEL RADIO -- SAYING THAT THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OR SOMEBODY WAS SAYING THAT THERE ARE NO SECRET SETTLEMENTS, AND THEN THEY LIST A WHOLE SLEW OF OTHER SETTLEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN STARTED IN THE LAST MONTH THEY SAID.

A. I THOUGHT THE FBIS ITEM IN FACT WENT ON TO SAY SOME-UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 07 STATE 216789

THING ALONG THE LINE THAT THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTER WAS SAYING, "LOOK, THERE'S NOTHING THAT HASN'T ALREADY BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT'S GOING ON." AND THEN THEY LISTED A FEW -- THE ONES THAT WERE LEGALIZED BEING SOME, THE THREE NEW ONES THAT THEY ANNOUNCED BEING SOME OTHERS. AND IT DIDN'T SEEM TO ME THAT IT WENT BEYOND --

Q. I SEE. SO THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL ONES, YOU MIGHT SAY, THAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT?

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THAT IS NOTHING NEW.

Q. THAT'S WHAT THE ASSURANCE IS, THAT THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL BECAUSE SO FAR AS WHAT'S SECRET -- AND I CAN GET INTO ALL SORTS OF THINGS -- WHAT YOU HAVE IS ASSURANCES THAT NOTHING ADDITIONAL BEYOND WHAT'S BEEN ANNOUNCED.

A. TO WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT -- YES.

Q. O.K.

A. AND THAT IS A REPEATED ASSURANCE BECAUSE THESE
STORIES KEEP COMING UP FROM ONE SOURCE OR ANOTHER.

Q. DOES THE ASSURANCE GO TO SETTING UP ANY ADDITIONAL?

A. I THINK THERE IS WHERE WE WILL LEAVE THE FOREIGN
MINISTER TO HAVE HIS CONVERSATION.

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